

MINUTES

LEXINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL January 28, 2003

Lexington County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2003, in Council Chambers, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Chairman Davis presided; Mr. Rucker gave the invocation. Mr. Owens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members attending:	George H. Smokey Davis	Bruce E. Rucker
	William C. Billy Derrick	Jacob R. Wilkerson
	Johnny W. Jeffcoat	John W. Carrigg, Jr.
	Joseph W. Joe Owens	M. Todd Cullum

Also attending: Art Brooks, County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Deputy County Administrator; Katherine Doucett, Personnel Director/Deputy County Administrator; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Appointment of Parliamentarian - Mr. Davis appointed Billy Derrick to serve as Council's Parliamentarian.

Employee Recognition - Art Brooks, County Administrator - B. J. Johnson and Bob Mazzone, mechanics with Fleet Services, completed their training and received certification as Emergency Vehicle Technicians. B. J. received certification in fire pumps and accessories and is the Fire Apparatus Specialist. Bob is the primary mechanic for the county's EMS units.

Mr. Brooks stated that the county received the 2002 Outstanding Safety Achievement Award from the South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust. Ron Farr, Safety and Training Coordinator, Ed Salyer, Rick Manager, Tom Gross, EMS Coordinator, Mike Gillis, EMS Logistics Officer and David Shull, EMS Shift Supervisor were recognized for their efforts and implementation of the Toolbox Safety Talks program. The once a week safety-topic talks appear to have demonstrated an overall decrease in EMS accidents and a reduction in the total cost attributed to workplace accidents. The talks have given employees an opportunity to be an active part of the Lexington County Safety Program. With the success of the program, the Talks have been customized for Fire Service and have been implemented by Chief Rawl and his staff.

Comments - Mr. Carrigg - Mr. Carrigg stated that last night around 2:00 a.m., he was awakened by his fire alarm, the smoke detector was going off and he called 9-1-1 and it turned out the air handler underneath the bedroom was on fire. The smoke was building up in the bedroom through the vents, he called 9-1-1, the people at Lexington County who received the call at Dispatch were very courteous, that he was probably somewhat confused having been awakened by the detector and a bedroom full of smoke, Irmo Fire District arrived with trucks and

manpower, they were extremely courteous, they took care of the problem, identified the problem and got his house back into a safe situation. He stated that the system works, Irmo Fire District, County Fire Service, etc. Mr. Carrigg stated that it was frightening because you are not in your right mind when you wake up to such a situation. He stated that he wanted everyone to know that the county system works well.

Resolutions - Mr. Dennis Lanier - Mr. Rucker stated that Mr. Lanier, a resident in his district, has allowed Life Reach and Care Force to land the helicopter on his property. Mr. Lanier has provided a landing pad on his property at no cost to the county and the resolution expresses thanks and appreciation to him for his contribution.

A motion was made by Mr. Rucker and seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat that the Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Davis	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Cullum

Presentation of Resolution - Wilmon L. Bucky Hutto, Jr. - Councilman Jacob Wilkerson - Mr. Wilkerson stated that a few weeks ago a retirement dinner was held for Bucky Hutto. Mr. Wilkerson stated that he did not realize until he attended the dinner that Chief Hutto was one of the first Fire Service employees to have a Chief's car, one of the first to have hot running water in one of the fire stations; he career has spanned some 30 years, 25 of which were with the county. He stated that no one entered such a career unless they had a true love for what they did, because no one got rich in that career, a lot of time is spent away from family, but we were truly fortunate to have someone like Bucky who has helped promote the County Fire Service. Mr. Wilkerson read the resolution adopted by Council and presented it to Chief Wilmon L. Bucky Hutto, Jr.

Appointments - Health Services District Board of Directors - A motion was made by Mr. Derrick and seconded by Mr. Rucker that Mr. Hubert E. Long, Jr., be reappointed.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Davis	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Cullum

Health Services District Board of Directors - A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Rucker that Mr. Paul H. Clifton, Jr., be reappointed.
Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Davis	Mr. Rucker
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Mr. Wilkerson Mr. Derrick
Mr. Jeffcoat Mr. Carrigg
Mr. Owens Mr. Cullum

Chairman's Report - River Alliance - Mr. Davis noted that he met with representatives of the River Alliance, there was an appointment or two to be made to that board, and Council would need to discuss future funding of the Alliance.

Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority - Mr. Derrick stated that he understood the authority was having difficulty getting enough board members present to conduct business and Council needed to fill that vacancy.

Mr. Davis asked that Mr. Cullum and Mr. Owens provide a nomination since most of the project was located in their districts.

Mr. Cullum echoed Mr. Derrick's comments, that he was a member of the board, and if he was correct in took 15 members to constitute a quorum and there has been a problem in the past seating a quorum. He stated that most of the work of the board has been completed, but to conduct business has been difficult at times, they have had to postpone meeting times until they could get in touch with people to attend the meeting to constitute a quorum. Mr. Cullum stated that he and Mr. Owens would work together and provide a nominee to Council.

Mr. Rucker asked the total number of board members.

Mr. Cullum responded that he thought it was 29.

Administrator's Report - Snow Removal Report - Mr. Brooks stated that last Thursday, January 23, the Public Works Department scraped the interstate highways. The county had a total of 18 motorgraders out in addition to dump trucks. He stated that the manhours and equipment hours totaled \$11,589 which will be reimbursed from SCDOT in accordance with the contract between the county and SCDOT.

Fire Service Banquet - Mr. Brooks reminded Council of the Fire Service Banquet, February 4, 7:00 p.m., T&S Farms.

Budget Amendment Resolutions - Department of Justice awarded a grant to the county's Emergency Preparedness Division in the amount of \$82,000 for the purchase of protective and decontamination equipment and supplied an additional \$123,000 for the purchase of 27 800 MHZ radios for the Lexington County Emergency Response Team. Total of \$205,000 in equipment.

Ordinances - Sale of Approximately .393 Acres of Property - Medical Circle - 1st Reading by Title - A motion was made by Mr. Derrick and seconded by Mr. Carrigg that Ordinance 03-1 receive first reading approval.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Davis	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	
Opposed:	Mr. Wilkerson	

Zoning Amendments - Zoning Map Amendment M02-08 - 123 Rawhide Court - Nunn - 3rd & Final Reading - A motion was made by Mr. Rucker and seconded by Mr. Derrick that Zoning Map Amendment M02-08 receive third and final reading approval.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Davis	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	
Opposed:	Mr. Wilkerson	

Committee Reports - Public Works, B. Derrick, Chairman - “C” Fund Recommendation - Mr. Derrick stated that the Public Works Committee met earlier in the day and voted to recommend to Council to adopt a policy that where there were problems in obtaining rights-of-way to pave roads that the possibility of using milled asphalt be considered in those places where rights-of-way can not be obtained, that the Council member in whose district the particular road is located be kept fully informed and his input be part of the process.

A motion was made by Mr. Derrick and seconded by Mr. Carrigg that the Committee Report as outlined above be adopted.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Carrigg noted that Mr. Fechtel, Director of Public Works, is to prepare a report to keep Council informed.

Mr. Derrick stated that was part of the “informed” part of the report, it was formalized a little bit.

In Favor:	Mr. Davis	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Cullum

Economic Development, J. Jeffcoat, Chairman - Gilbert-Summit Rural Water District -

Grant Application - Mr. Jeffcoat reported that the Economic Development Committee met earlier in the day and discussed the Gilbert-Summit Rural Water District Grant Application. He stated that the Committee voted to recommend to Council that the Grant Application be approved for submission.

A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the Committee Report be adopted.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Davis	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Cullum

Old Business/New Business - Mr. Rucker reminded Council that SCAC will be meeting on February 18 and 19; Institute classes will be held on February 18.

Mr. Rucker stated that Senator Knotts has introduced a bill which will affect the counties - a new section has been proposed to be added to Article 10 of the Constitution that taxation on any real property be removed and that local governments will not be able to raise that taxation again and the Senator has asked that the proposal be placed on the ballot in two years. He stated that the bill does say that by law the State of South Carolina must provide funding mechanisms. Mr. Rucker asked if Council wanted to draft a resolution of support.

Mr. Derrick stated that he thought Council should draft a resolution and define some of the parameters; if property tax is eliminated, that we be sure home rule is solvent and we have the ability to raise revenue to run the county because the proposed bill is pretty ambiguous and says the state will raise money, but we don't know how they are going to divide it up, who's going to get it or anything else.

It was the consensus of Council that a resolution be drafted to include the parameters mentioned by Mr. Derrick.

Letter to J. Knotts - Mr. Owens stated that he received a copy of the letter Mr. Rucker had written to Senator Knotts and asked if he received a response.

Mr. Rucker replied that he did, they met and talked about the disclosure of confidential information dealing with potential economic development matters and Senator Knotts indicated that it was written more for state government because of Department of Commerce actions.

Executive Session/Legal Briefing - A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that Council go into executive session to receive the legal briefing and discuss a personnel matter.

In Favor:	Mr. Davis	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Cullum

Chairman Davis reconvened the meeting in open session.

Matters Requiring a Vote as a Result of Executive Session - Mr. Davis reported that there were no motions to be considered as a result of executive session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy K. Black
Clerk

George H. Smokey Davis
Chairman